

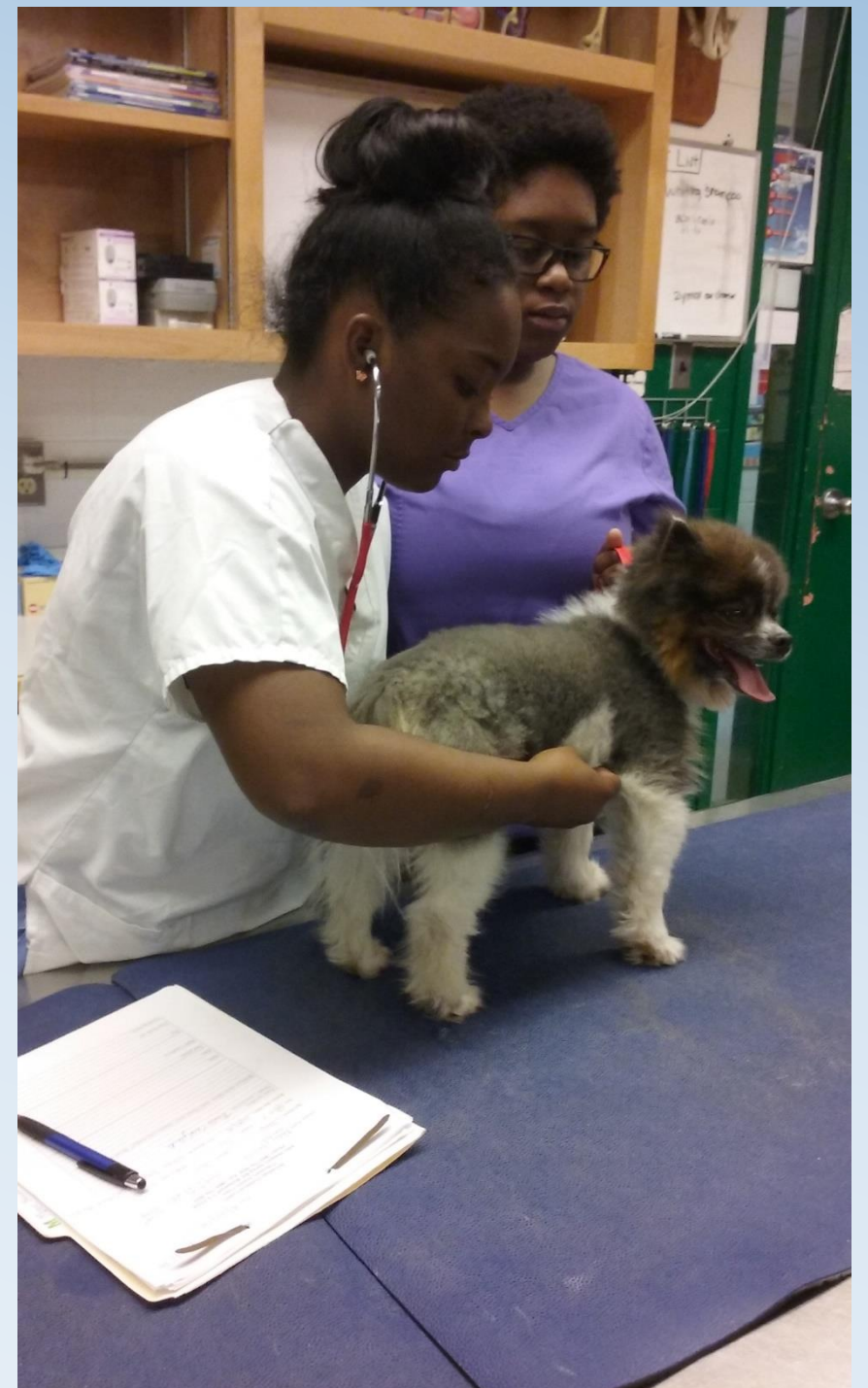
Partnering With Business and Industry

How a high school Veterinary
Assistant program gets
students involved in work-
based learning

by Karen Bowles, LVT
Veterinary Assistant Teacher
Henrico County Public Schools



Work-based learning can happen inside or outside the classroom



Examples:

- Job shadowing for a day or a few days
 - The word “**observe**” is key
- Younger students may have to be accompanied by an adult



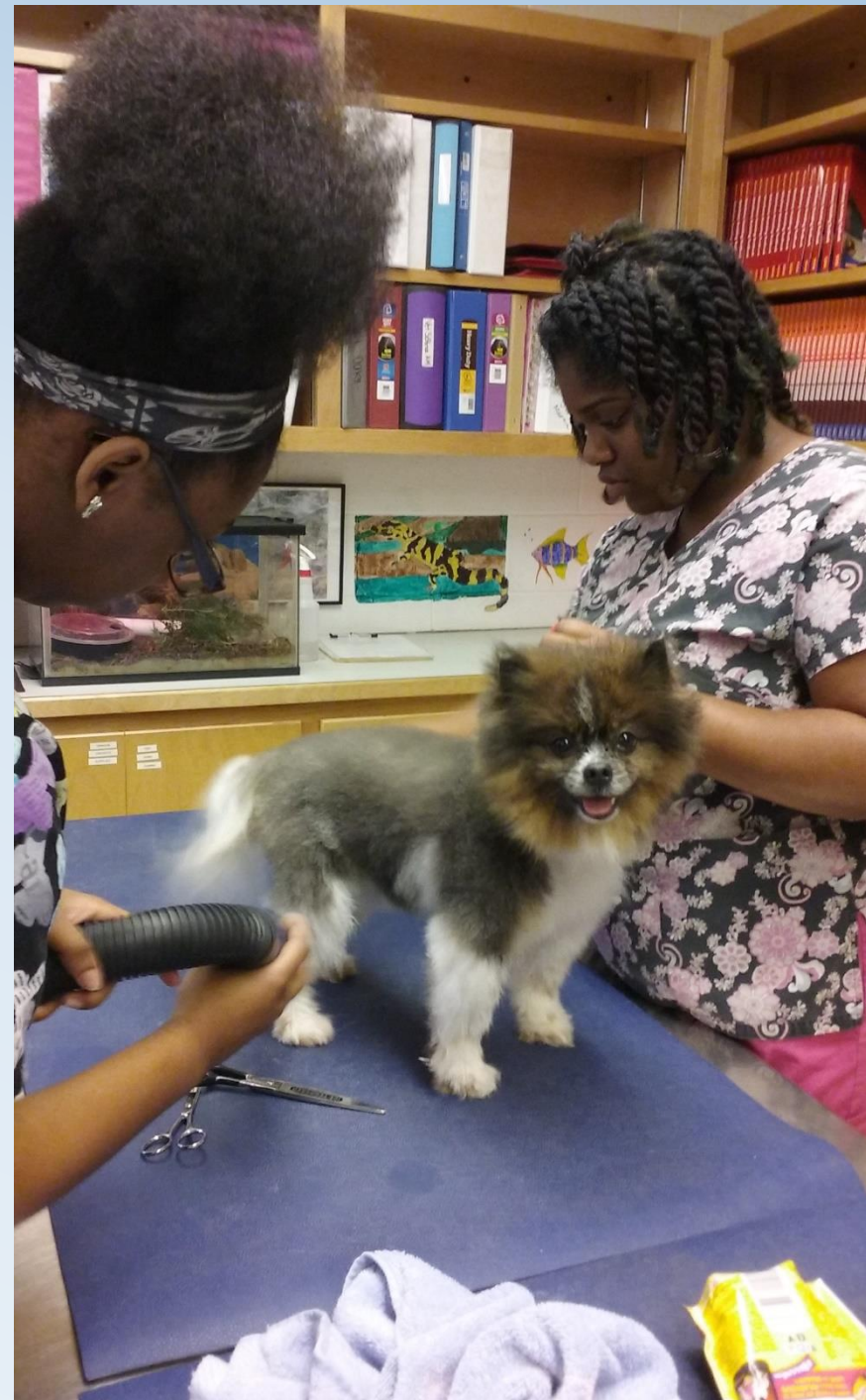
Co-ops

- Student goes to job site during class time
- Paid or unpaid
- Usually involves participation/ actual work



Working in the classroom

- Bring the job to you!



Work-based Learning

- Shadowing or co-ops help students learn about a job/ career
 - Do I like the job or career?
 - Can I see myself doing this?
 - What do I need to do to get this job/ career?
- May lead to internship or actually being hired!

Start by building an advisory committee

- People in industry
- Parents
- Past students

Advisory Committee 2015-16

Tim McKissick (Merial Rep)

Gillian Comyn, DVM (USDA-APHIS)

Carolyn Evans, DVM (Quioccasin Vet Hospital)

Cindy Rose, Manager Quioccasin Vet Hospital

Gail Peters, manager Springfield Veterinary Center

Jaime Buffington, groomer/owner of Just for Paws Pet Spa

Hermine and Alan Douglas- Alpha Dog Club

Colleen-AWARE

Kim Raible, LVT- Cary St. Vet.

Bill Chenault, owner Chenault Vet Hospital

Dr. Mark Remick - APHIS

Helen Miller- Richardson's Rescues

Dr. Kelly Gottschalk, owner Wellesley Animal Hospital

Alan Taylor, manager Dr. Locke Taylor's Office

Kate Walser- Henrico Humane

Mary DeNoewer, LVT VA Veterinary Surgical Associates

Taryn Singleton, LVT owner Sycamore Vet Hospital

Michelle Welch, atty.

Glenda Schroeder- Holiday Barn

Corbyn Riddell, '06- 3rd year vet student VA Tech

Get your name out there

- 2010- presented in front of the Central VA Veterinary Medical Association about my class and students
- How? I asked!



Students learn a variety of topics and skills that will allow them to work as veterinary assistants or further their career in the field of veterinary medicine.

Advertise your class/ program

- 2012: Compiled list of about 80 area veterinary practices
- Camera crew filmed class in action
- County PR person burned DVD's
- Sent these with a cover letter to each practice



February 8, 2012

Dear Doctor,

Hermitage Technical Center is fortunate to have a strong Veterinary Science program. Currently we have 24 second-year students who have learned many aspects of working with animals in a hospital setting. They are comfortable handling several different species. Their experience includes restraint and handling, bathing, drying, nails trims, ear cleaning, administering medications, keeping patient records, facility sanitation and maintenance, some laboratory work like setting up fecals and SNAP tests, and surgical pack preparation.

Many students will be ready for co-ops in April. We are looking for hospitals that are willing to have a student shadow/ observe (and volunteer, at your discretion) once or twice a week during our regular class time. They will provide their own transportation. They are high school seniors, and most of them drive. Class starts at 1:00 pm and ends at 3:45 pm, so these are the approximate times that they could be with you.

I have enclosed a 6 minute DVD that talks about our program, what the students get out of it, and how it can benefit you. I plan to contact you by the end of February to inquire about your availability and willingness to take one of my students for this experience. I will only call practices that the students can realistically travel to, within the timeframe of the class. I hope that you will strongly consider taking on one of my students to enhance their education and move them further along their career path. Thank you so much!

Get student and parent buy-in

- Tell success stories
- Could even be your own story
- You don't have to "sell" this to most students or parents
- It is best to start teaching about how to work in middle school

Challenges

- How do you fit it into school schedule?
- Transportation
- Age prohibitive



Business partners

- How do you convince them that it's worth their while?



Hired!

- Many of my high school students who shadow are asked to come on board

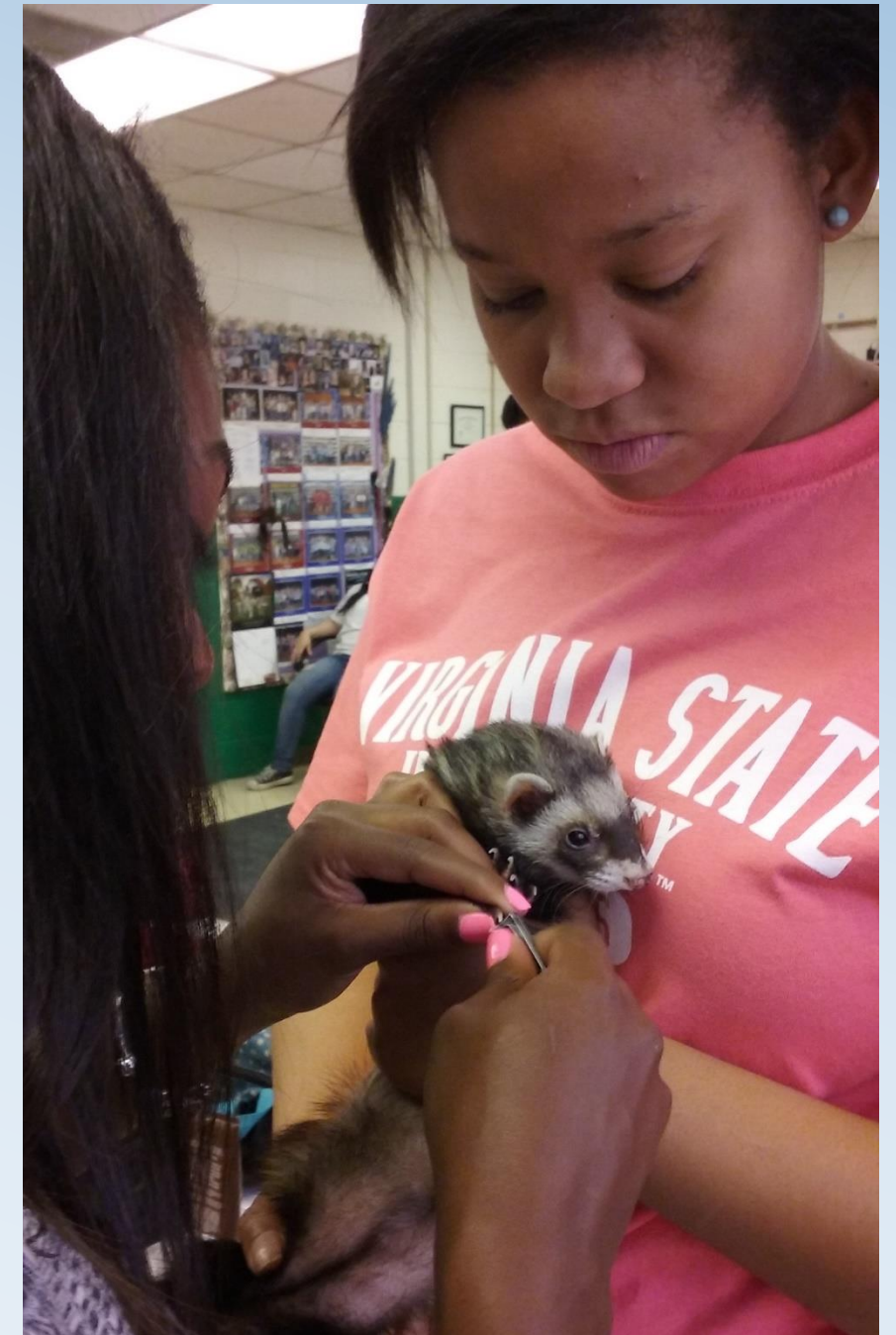


Work experience for a well-rounded student

- Colleges are not just looking for great GPA's
- Those who work in the field before or during college are more confident and are usually ahead of their college classmates

Work experience in the classroom

- Live animals



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Animal	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	AM	PM
Emmie	RL ^{JR}	RL ^{JR}	RL			Rodrigo	Josie
Hamlet	BM ^{BR}	BM ^{BR}	BM	BM		Bailey	Brenda
Gingersnap	SR ^{CS}	SR ^{CS}	SR	SP		Shanell	Lindsey
Hazelnut	X ^{MB}	AM ^{MZ}				Aaliyah	Michael
Wooly Bully	EL	EL	EL			Ezsiana	Cecelia
Chopper	GP ^{D.O}	GP	GP			Zaria	Dorian
RATS	MH [~]	MH [~]	MH	MH		Mandy	Rose
Flake	ABS ^{DO}	ABS ^{DO}	ABS	ABS		Brooke	Derrick
Isabella	DL ^{MA}	D.T.				Destiny	Megan
Jacob	JH ^{SG}	JH ^{SG}	JH	JH		Jordan	Jada
Jester	NL	NL	NL	NL		Natasha	Karleen
Snowball	JM ^{ML}	TM ^{ML}	JM			Taylor	Mina
Kittens	X	mm ^{SK}	X	mm		Melissa	Samantha
Nubble/Crickets	RO		RO			Riley	Jamie
Blü	KP ^{DP}	TS ^{RB}	TS			Tyler	Brandi
Wormy	CP ^{M.N.}	PN ^{M.N.}	AD			Rosetta	Makala
Laundry	IH ^{CR}	IH ^{CR}	IH	IH		Imani	Chelsea
Laundry							Erika
						Sabriya	Lamont

STOP!

NO HUMAN FOOD OR
DRINK ALLOWED

FOR LABORATORY SAMPLES AND
TESTS ONLY



We partner with a kitten rescue organization to help raise orphaned kittens



We partner with Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue in Varina



Groups are assigned to a dog



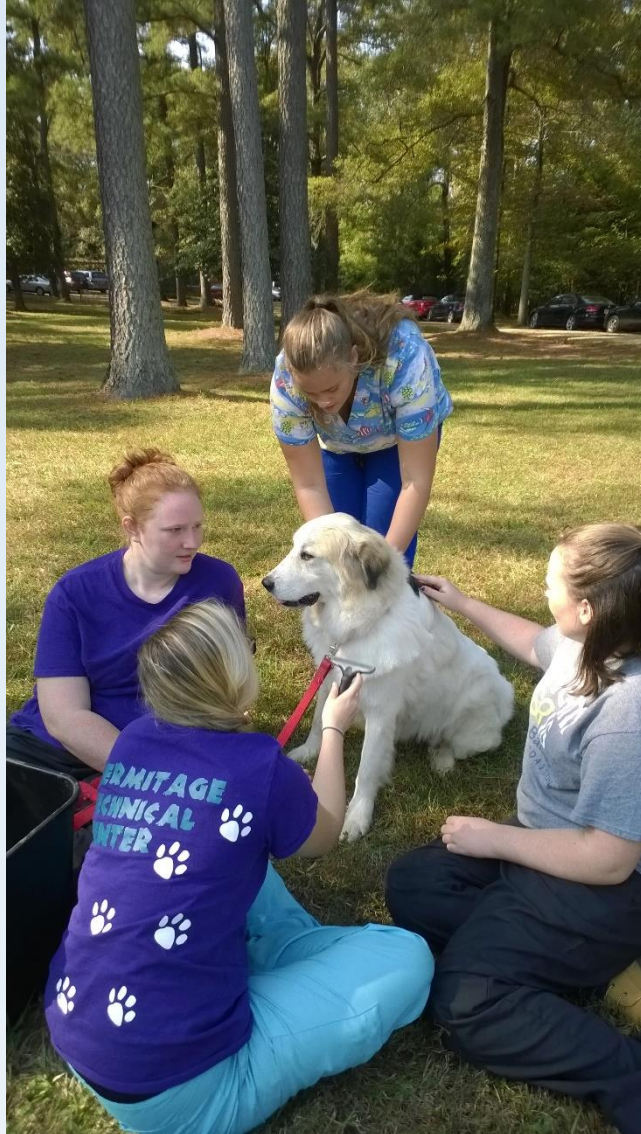
Teams work on obedience training



Exercise dogs



Brush out coats and trim nails



Bathe dogs









Sometimes we get to handle puppies!



The organization thanks us on their Facebook page

- More advertising for us!



Our grooming business



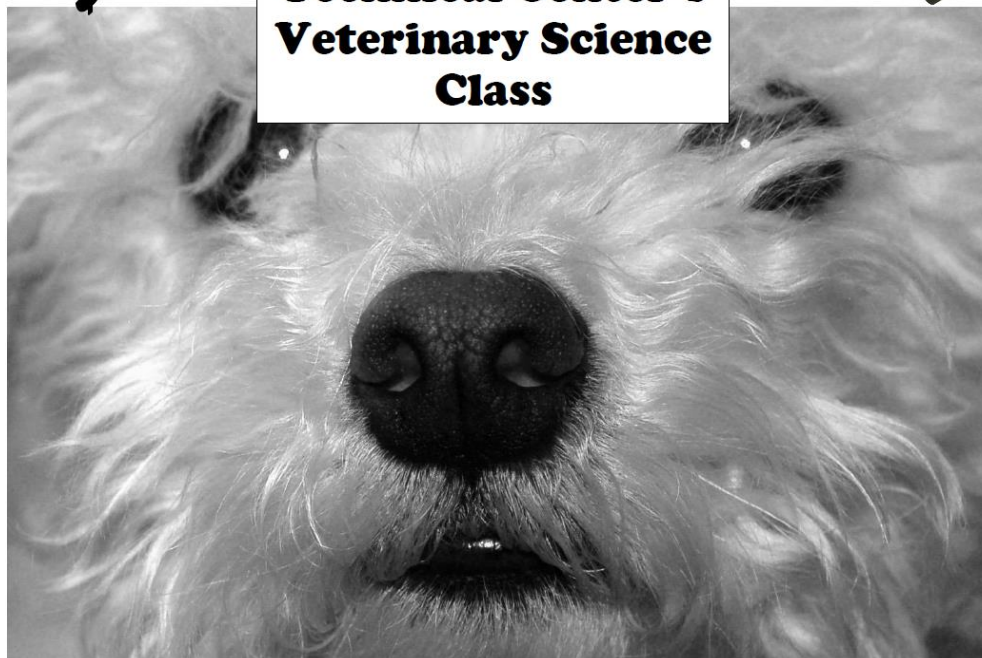
Pet Grooming

by

\$20

Hermitage Technical Center's Veterinary Science Class

Dogs and cats



Thursday mornings and afternoons

Includes: flea/tick check, mat removal, brush/ comb out, nail trim and file, ear cleaning, anal gland expression, bath, condition, blow dry, and LOTS of playtime! **No full haircuts** (but we can trim bangs and feet).

(Drop off between 8:30-9:00am or at lunchtime. Pick up by 5:00pm)

(we need a rabies certificate for proof of current vaccination)

Contact Karen Bowles: klbowles@henrico.k12.va.us

or 467-9588

8301 Hungary Spring Rd. Richmond, VA 23228

Competencies practiced:

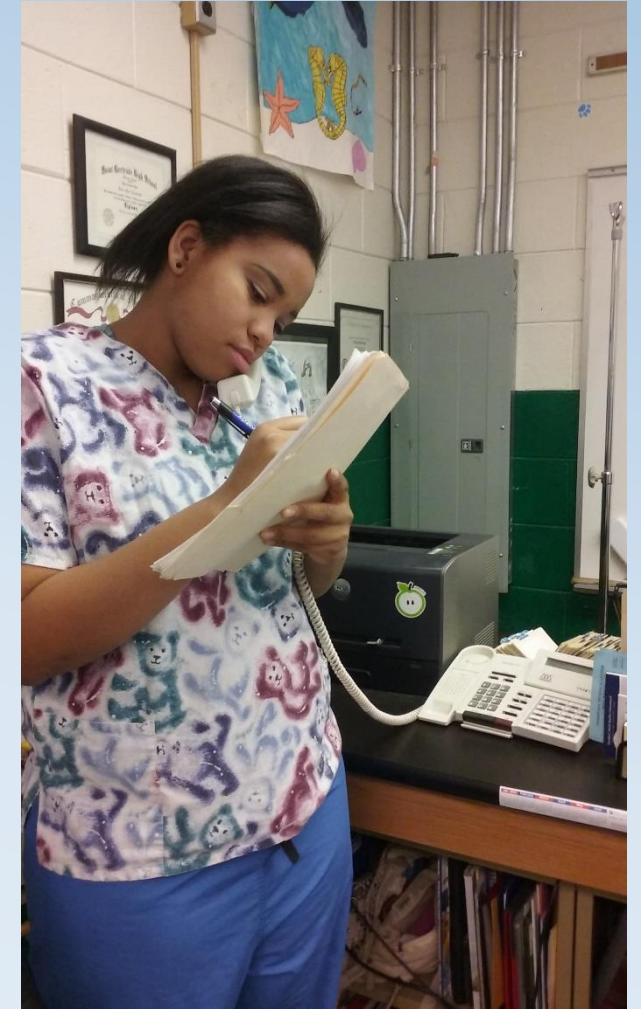
- Professionalism
- Breed recognition
- Behavior observation
- Restraint & handling
- Time management
- Normal vs. abnormal



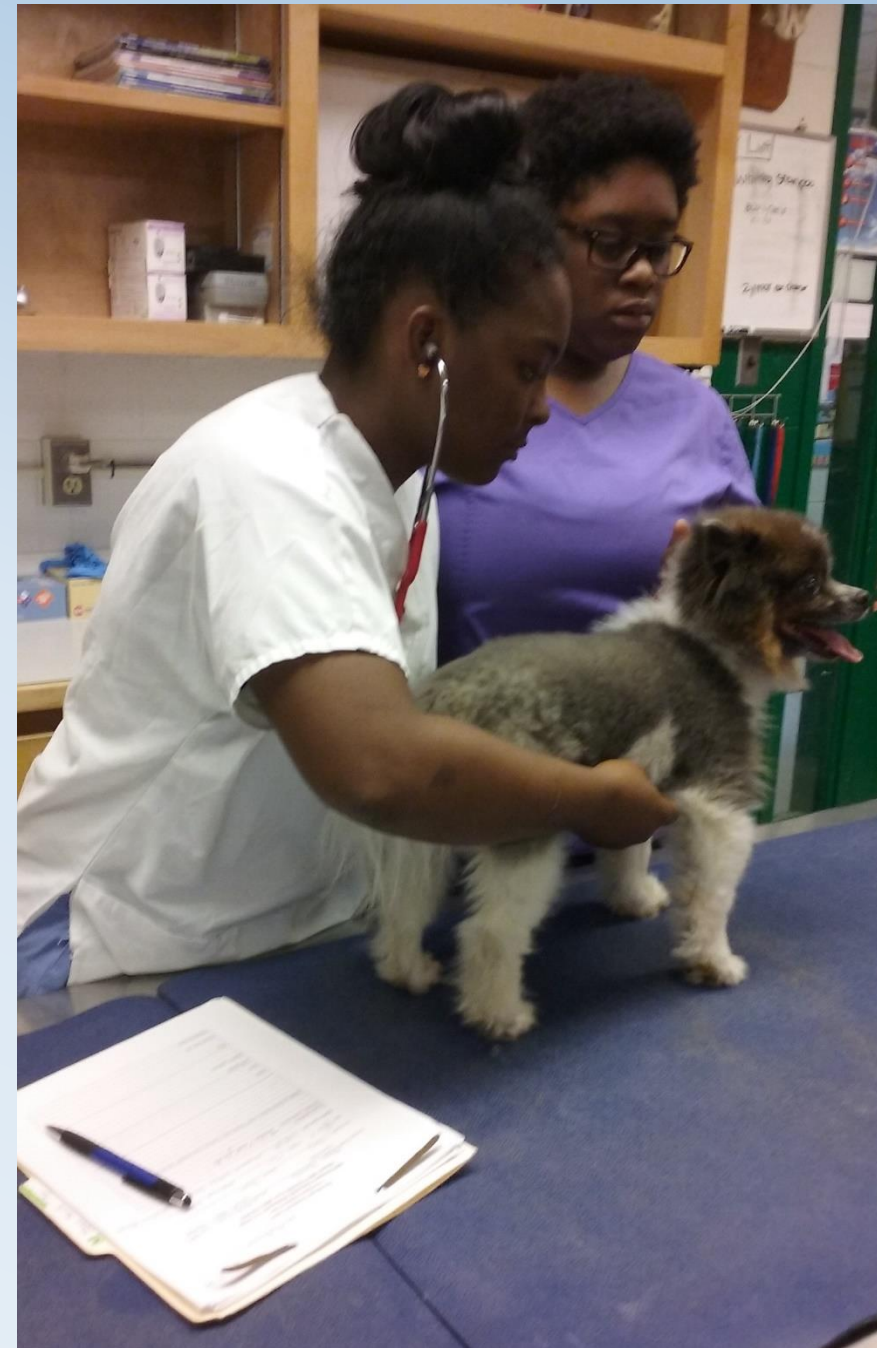
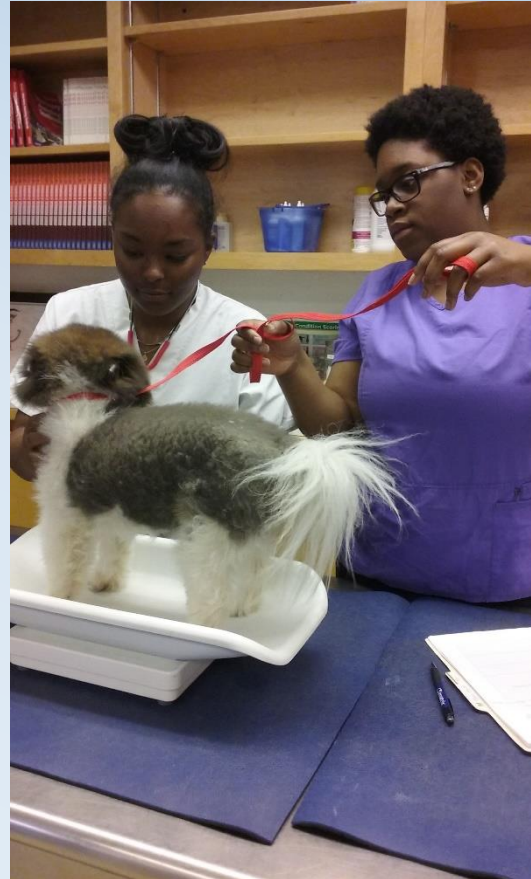
Teamwork and Creativity



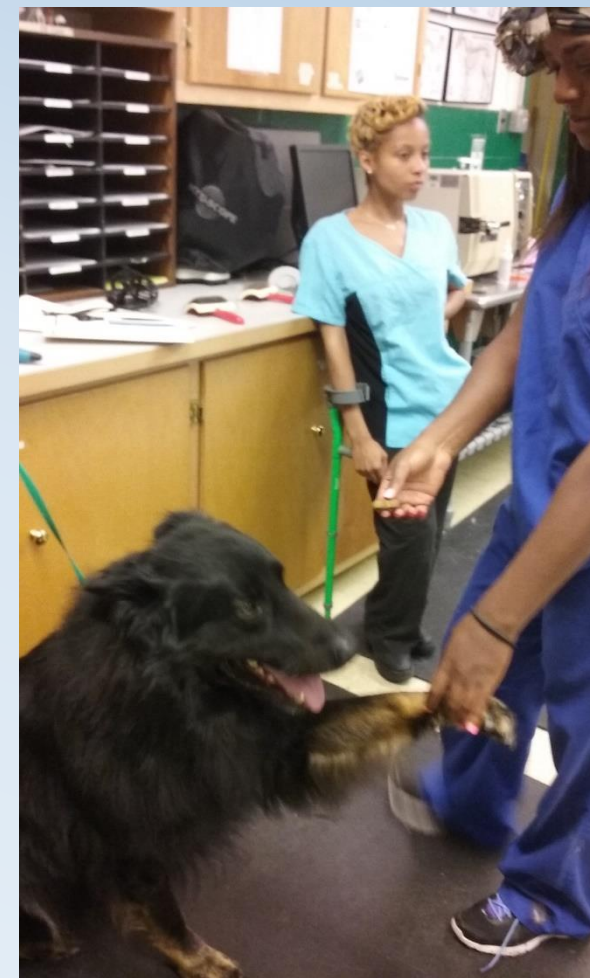
- Communication with pet owners
- Keeping medical records
- Using medical terms
- Dressing professionally

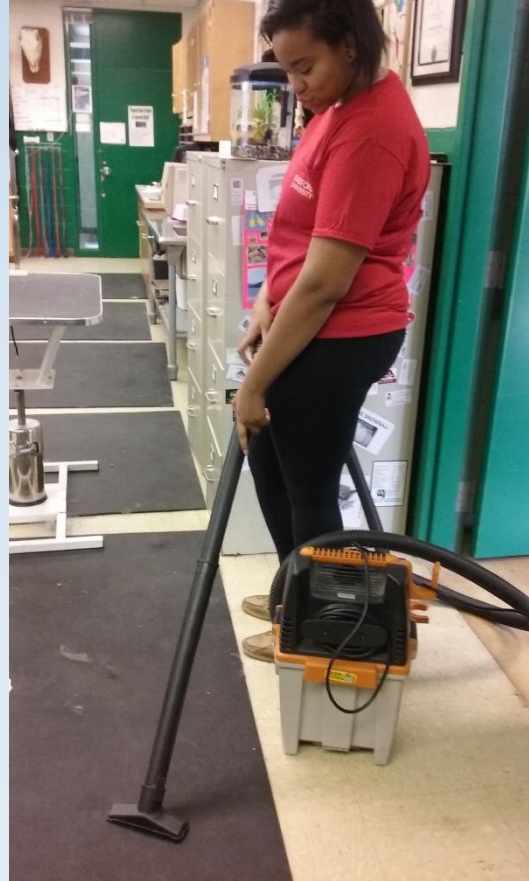


Getting patient weights and vitals



Treating animals with love
and respect





Cleaning/ sanitation

Laundry...parents love this!



Inventory, maintaining equipment and supplies



Diagnostic tests





Success stories

Dear Ms. Bowles,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for being my Vet Science teacher this year. This has been a wonderful year and I really feel that I am better for having had you as my teacher. You of course guide us through the veterinary field, but I also feel that I learned invaluable lessons that I will take with me to future jobs and other ventures as an adult.

In 2012, as a sophomore, I really was not sure if taking this course was a good idea. I remember making the decision to take it with a great amount of apprehension. However, I can thankfully look back and say this was probably the best decision I ever made. I really can't even imagine how much different my life would be without taking this class. You provide us with so many experiences and opportunities, and I am forever grateful for that. I was not even sure if I wanted to be a vet two years ago. And now, I am certain that whatever it takes, I will become a vet and I know I can get there from the knowledge and support you have provided us.

It's that time again, former students...for me to hear from you! If you are working with animals in any way, or heading in that direction, please let me know. Please also let me know if you are now an LVT or Dr. (from Facebook 5-19-14)

[REDACTED] I am a kennel assistant and a vet assistant just by getting doctors instruments. I also do not walk dogs but love on them and cats love on them but do not hold them down.

[REDACTED] I work with children which are like animals! And I am a member of Hanover Hounds K9 search and rescue! Class of 04 your very first class!

[REDACTED] I'm working towards becoming an LVT with classes through cedar valley community college

[REDACTED] I worked at VRCC as an assistant while going to blueridge! Then moved to colorado and transferred to Bel-real!

[REDACTED] am currently unemployed and 7 months pregnant. However I had a few interviews at Quioccosin Vet and am going to school after I have the baby.

[REDACTED] Molly [REDACTED] LVT

[REDACTED] I'm currently at another boarding/day care facility while majoring in Biology at Virginia Wesleyan College!

[REDACTED] I work at the Vet School at Virginia Tech; graduating next spring from BRCC's distance ed vet tech program!

[REDACTED] LVT....just graduated from BRCC...been working at my practice now for 9 years.

[REDACTED] Anything you need, you know where to find me (LVT)

[REDACTED] I am a veterinary assistant at quioccasin (:

[REDACTED] No longer at the VESC, but will be going to tech school through St. Petersburg College in the fall!

Dog boarding and grooming facility



Vet Assistant



Vet School



Remember to take pictures of your students in action!



- Questions?
- Comments?
- Ideas?